

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00948 210943Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----024163 210956Z /10

R 210900Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8240  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0948

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: ENRG MMOL LA VM  
SUBJECT: OIL PIPELINES AND STORAGE CAPACITY IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL  
LAOS

REF: A VIENTIANE 0946, B VIENTIANE 0433, C VIENTIANE 0525

1. A RELIABLE FRENCH DIPLOMATIC SOURCE INFORMED  
EMBOFF JUNE 14 THAT TWO NINE INCH FUEL PIPELINES  
EXTENDING ALONG ROUTE 13 (VE2599) NORTH OF BAN NA HIN WERE IN  
OPERATION, ONE CARRYING GASOIL (DIESEL) AND THE OTHER  
"BENZINE".

2. A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND USUALLY RELIABLE WESTERN  
SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 16 THAT AN ASSOCIATE RECENTLY  
DROVE THE LENGTH OF THE PIPELINE (ROUTE 8/81) AND  
REPORTED SEEING LARGE PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS LN HIGH  
ELEVATIONS IN THE NAPE REGION. THE SOURCE THEORIZED  
THAT THE TANKS MARKED THE ORIGIN OF THE PIPELINE AND  
THAT FUEL MIGHT BE SUPPLIED TO THAT POINT BY TRUCK  
FROM VIETNAM, OR THROUGH EXISTING NORTH-SOUTH RUNNING  
PIPELINES THAT WERE PART OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL  
COMPLEX.

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3. THE WESTERN SOURCE SAID THAT CURRENT LAO ANNUAL  
PETROLEUM NEEDS ARE APPROXIMATELY 50,000 TONS. HE  
ADDED THAT THE BULK OF LAO FUEL REQUIREMENTS WERE FOR  
GASOIL.

4. REF A REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF A TOTAL OF SIX  
OPERATIONAL FUEL STORAGE TANKS ALONG ROUTE 9 BETWEEN

DONE HENE AND SEPONE WITH A STRATEGIC FUEL  
STORAGE SITE AT SEPONE.

5. COMMENT: THE VOLUME OF FUEL THAT COULD BE PUMPED  
THROUGH TWO NINE INCH PIPELINES (PARA 1) AS WELL AS  
IMPROVEMENT OF FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY IN SAVANNAKHET  
SUGGEST DEVELOPMENT OF FUEL SUPPLY BEYOND THE CURRENT  
NEEDS OF THE LPDR, AS ALSO INDICATED PARA 2 REF C.

6. REF B REPORTED THAT THE TWO PIPELINES WERE EACH  
EIGHT INCH DIAMETER.

7. RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS  
MESSAGE TO CINCPAC, CIA AND DIA.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, STORAGE, PIPELINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X4  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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